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CIA Chief, Senate Unit Clash

By Roy Gutman Newsday Washington Bureau

Washington — CIA Director William Casey and the Senate Intelligence Committee engaged in a new round of public sparring yesterday as the panel's vice chairman assailed Casey for issuing a harshly worded attack on congressional oversight.

In a third straight day of feuding, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), called a press conference to say that "some people" apparently wanted to do away with oversight altogether.

"This is an attack on the oversight process, there is no question in my mind at all," Leahy said of a letter Casey sent the committee. "Some people feel we should return to the good old days of no oversight, the days of the Bay of Pigs and Allende" — a reference to the abortive CIA-led invasion of Cuba in 1961 and attempts to destabilize Chilean leftist leader Salvador Allende in 1973.

In a public letter issued Thursday, Casey accused committee Chairman Dave Durenberger (R-Minn.) of compromising sources and damaging morale and CIA capabilities by publicly criticizing him at a luncheon with reporters.

"When congressional oversight of the intelligence community is conducted off the-cuff through the news media and involves the repeated compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and methods, not to mention unsubstantiated appraisals of performance, it is time to acknowledge that the process has gone seriously awry," Casey said.

On one level, the flap derived from errors in a report in The Washington Post. But congressional and CIA sources said the dispute really relates to the lack of trust and confidence between Casey and the commmittee.

Most of Casey's attack on Durenberger related to statements he had not made or had given in a different context. The CIA had no official comment on why Casey decided to write the committee based only on The Washington Post account without determining what Durenberger had actually said. In a story published yesterday, the Post acknowledged er-

rors in its original account

At a luncheon with reporters on Wednesday, Durenberger said that CIA analysis of Soviet affairs had lacked "a sense of direction" and failed to factor in outside developments such as the rise of Shiite fundamentalism, the energy issue or the Philippines. But he had praise for the agency's intelligence about the Philippines and in no way criticized its intelligence about energy or Shiite fundamentalism.

The Washington Post account did not clearly state that Durenberger's mention of CIA analysis of fundamentalism, energy or the Philippines was in the context of a question about the quality of CIA analysis of the Soviet Union.

Almost half of Casey's letter criticized Durenberger for alleged ignorance of the CIA's achievements in these three areas.

The Post's lead paragraph paraphrased Durenberger as criticizing the CIA and Casey "particularly for failure to understand the Soviet Union," words Durenberger did not use according to a transcript of the remarks prepared by Newsday. Casey, without access to a transcript, said he was "dismayed by your comments regarding our alleged 'failure to understand the Soviet Union' particularly in light of the fact that this is the first time you have expressed such concern over our work in this area.'"

Casey acknowledged in his letter that Durenberger's staff had disavowed many of the statements attributed to him as inaccurate. "But," he said in the letter, "that's not the point. Public discussion of sensitive information and views revealed in a closed session of an oversight committee is always damaging and inadvisable." His letter did not indicate what sensitive information or views had been revealed.

Washington (UPI) — President Ronald Reagan yesterday reconstituted a streamlined nonpartisan advisory board to oversee intelligence operations, naming former UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick as one of four new members.

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board was established in 1956, disbanded by President Jimmy Carter and reinstituted by Reagan in 1981. Last month, contending it had grown unwieldy at 21 members, Reagan reshaped it and trimmed the membership to 14.